

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 19, 2017

Members Present: Scottie Ard, Ron Volkert, and Jim Jackson

Others Present: Craig Yehlik, Matt Melby, Mike Darrow, and Lori Brinkman

Scottie Ard called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Jim Jackson moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

Jim Jackson moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of July 11, 2017, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

Narcan

Chief Yehlik spoke about the national opioid epidemic which has caused multiple overdose deaths. Fentanyl and carfentanyl are sometimes mixed with Heroin and are very deadly without immediate medical care. There have been many accidental exposures of fentanyl and carfentanyl to law enforcement officers across the country. The known antidote for opioid exposure is Narcan. There is a Narcan nasal spray that is an effective treatment for opioid exposure and can be self-administered as well as administered to others. The sooner the Narcan is administered after exposure, the better the results will be. There isn't any harm in administering Narcan if, in fact, opioids haven't been used. Rae Ann Ailts, Finance Director, determined there are grant monies available for safety equipment and Narcan nasal spray would be covered under the grant. Carrying cases for the Narcan nasal spray would not be covered under the insurance grant. Matt Melby, Ambulance Director, can provide the NRPD with Narcan at his cost through Westfields Hospital (approximately \$36 each (includes spray and nasal syringe)). The shelf life of the Narcan nasal spray is 22 months. It would need to be carried on the officer's body as opposed to being left in squad cars as it cannot get too hot or too cold. Matt Melby has carrying cases he can donate to the officers. Officers would need a brief training on how to use the Narcan nasal spray; Matt Melby has agreed to hold the training. The Hudson Police Department saved a life using Narcan the very first night they began carrying it.

Scottie Ard made a motion to approve using grant monies to purchase Narcan nasal spray for the New Richmond Police Department, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

Retirees Credentials/ID Card and HR218 Information

Chief Yehlik restated the issue he presented at the last Public Safety meeting: Wisconsin residents who are former law enforcement officers may be eligible to carry a concealed weapon in two ways: 1) Obtain the concealed carry license available to the general public; or 2) Obtain an "HR218" certification card available to qualified former law enforcement officers. Up until now, retired New Richmond police officers have been given certification ID cards but have not been offered qualification shoots which would authorize them to carry a concealed weapon under the HR218 law. Chief Yehlik has been researching this topic further and has reached out to several retired New Richmond police officers to determine interest. Most retirees have shown interest in carrying a concealed weapon under the HR218 law, which would allow them to carry a gun most anywhere in the United States. Chief Yehlik has checked with City Attorney, Nick Vivian, who does not see a liability issue as long as the HR218 regulations are being followed. Chief Yehlik reiterated he would like the following additional guidelines in place: 1) retired officers need to pay all of their own expenses for the qualification shoots (guns, ammunition, range time, etc.) and 2) they must have been in "good standing" at the time they left the police department. There was discussion about defining "good

standing”. There was also discussion as to whether the New Richmond Police Department would handle authorization for retired New Richmond police officers only. The Committee agreed that New Richmond residents who retired from other jurisdictions would be directed to St. Croix County for permit issuance.

The Public Safety Committee would like to move forward with this.

Scottie Ard would like to see a cost breakdown for applicants, an outline for classroom training, and an outline for range training. Chief Yehlik will prepare this information for the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

No action taken.

Baton Update & Action

At the previous Public Safety Committee meeting, the Committee authorized changes to the Defense and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) policy with regard to the use of batons as impact weapons. Policies 1019 and 303 have been updated to include the authorized use of expandable batons in lieu of the 26-inch wood baton. Chief Yehlik stated there isn't money in the 2017 or 2018 budget to purchase the expandable batons for all police officers. He would like to leave the wood baton as the primary impact weapon and allow officers to use their uniform allowance to purchase expandable batons. If an officer chooses to carry an expandable baton as their primary impact weapon, they must continue to have the wood baton in the squad car as a backup.

Traffic Tamers

At the July 11 meeting, the Public Safety Committee discussed the possibility of instituting a Traffic Tamers program in New Richmond similar to the one Hudson has instituted. Officer Crubaugh has continued to research this topic. It appears to be a viable option for our community, however, Chief Yehlik stated he's not sure this is the right time to implement the program. Chief Yehlik doesn't feel the police department can spare the manpower it would take to train the volunteers, run license plates, and type/mail letters to violators. City Administrator Mike Darrow wondered if adding more signage would help slow traffic down, including adding more radar signs. He also asked about data collection from the radar signs. Chief Yehlik stated there is technology in place to pull speed data from the current radar signs within the City. He will talk to Andrew Lamers and Jeremiah Wendt with regard to retrieving the data.

The Committee tabled this topic.

Communications and Miscellaneous

Chief Yehlik mentioned there were three missing juveniles reported today in New Richmond and all three were found safe and unharmed. Chief Yehlik thanked the responding officers and concerned residents for their assistance.

Scottie Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Jackson and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Minutes by Lori Brinkman